

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, BB

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPTION OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PRESS CONFERENCE, AUGUST 16, 1977, AT GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS, INCLUDING OPENING REMARKS BY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER HENRY FORDE AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG, FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

FORDE: I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT WE HAVE HAD VERY FRUITFUL DIS-

CUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND THE TRAVELING PARTY, BOTH ON BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MATTERS. AND INDEED WE HAVE ASKED HIM TO CONVEY OUR PRIME MINISTER'S AND GOVERNMENT'S PERSONAL BEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND TO ASSURE HIS PRESIDENT OF THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF BARBADOS FOR THE NEW AMERICAN INITIATIVE, NOT ONLY IN THE CARIBBEAN, BUT ALSO ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. AS YOU KNOW, WE STRESSED TO HIM THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BARBADOS AS A COUNTRY DEDICATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND BEING PERHAPS ONE OF THE FREEST NATIONS IN THE WORLD. AND DESPITE THE SMALL SIZE OF BARBADOS, AS INDEED OF SOME OF THE MANY STAES IN THE CARIBBEAN, WE

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FEEL THAT WE CAN ASSIST THE UNITED STATES AND DEMOCRACY AT LARGE IN THE CARIBBEAN AND BEYOND. ON PARTICULAR ISSUES, WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT OUR DEEP CONCERN CONCERNING BELIZE, AND WE STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AS WELL AS OFFICIALS AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES TO RECOGNIZE THAT BELIZE CAN POSE PROBLEMS FOR CARIBBEAN SOCIETY, AND WE SAW THE BELIZE QUESTION AS A QUESTION OF SELF-DETERMINATION, AND

WE WOULD HOPE THAT FROM NEW INITIATIVES THERE CAN BE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE.

YOUNG: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT WAS INDEED ONE OF THE MOST ENCOURAGING AND FRUITFUL CONVERSATIONS WE'VE HAD ON OUR ENTIRE TRIP, AND THE STRONG SUPPORT THAT THIS COUNTRY HAS ALWAYS HAD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. I THINK YOU HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHEST LITERACY RATES IN THE HEMISPHERE AND EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION THAT WE CERTAINLY DO APPRECIATE. WE HAD VERY FRANK DISCUSSIONS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT WE WILL BE REPORTING BACK TO OUR GOVERNMENT ON, AND I THINK WE FOUND THAT THERE WAS ALSO, IN ADDITION TO THE EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AN EMPHASIS ON CARIBBEAN REGIONALISM, THAT HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS ADMINISTRATION BOTH IN TERMS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM, AND THE KIND OF POLICIES THAT WE HAVE SEEN EVOLVING IN THE NINE COUNTRIES THAT WE HAVE VISITED PREVIOUSLY WE FOUND CONTINUED HERE IN BARBADOS AS WE EXPECTED. WE DIDN'T AGREE ON EVERYTHING. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POINTS THAT THERE WILL BE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS ON. BUT THEY'RE POINTS THAT I THINK WE WILL FIND SOLUTIONS FOR.

Q: WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM YOUR CARIBBEAN TOUR?

YOUNG: YOU WANT THE SHORT COURSE OR DO YOU WANT THE TWO-YEAR SEMINAR? (LAUGHTER.) I THINK THAT WE'VE LEARNED THAT THERE'S A GREAT APPRECIATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE NATIONS THAT WE HAVE VISITED DO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS. AND EVEN THOSE WHO

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HAVE HAD HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS WE FOUND WILLING TO TAKE NEW INITIATIVES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THEIR COUNTRIES WE FIND ALSO THAT THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS AND THE NEED FOR FREER TRADE IS SOMETHING THAT IS ALMOST UNIVERSAL AND -- I GUESS WE COULD ALMOST STOP THERE. SHORT COURSE.

1: HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE AS A BLACK REPRESENTATIVE OF WHITE AMERICA?

Y: WELL, I DON'T REPRESENT WHITE AMERICA, NOR DO I REPRESENT BLACK AMERICA. I DON'T REPRESENT BROWN AMERICA OR POLKA-DOT AMERICA EITHER. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S AMAZING ABOUT OUR COUNTRY IS THE SENSE IN WHICH WE HAVE COME TOGETHER AND DERIVED A CONSENSUS ABOUT FREEDOM, ABOUT HUMAN DIGNITY AND EQUALITY, AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE CAN WORK TOGETHER IN SPITE OF OUR DIFFERING BACKGROUNDS. THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT MY AFRO-AMERICAN HERITAGE GIVES ME A PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY TO PROBLEMS OF AFRICA OR THE CARIBBEAN, JUST AS THE HERITAGE OF JEWISH AMERICANS MAY GIVE THEM SENSITIVITY TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, OR THE SENSITIVITY TO IRISH AMERICANS, OR ITALIAN AMERICANS, OR WHAT HAVE YOU. THE THING WE SEE ABOUT OUR COUNTRY, THOUGH, IS THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO RE-

LATE TO THE ENTIRE GLOBE SO EFFECTIVELY, AND THAT WHEN OUR MINORITIES ARE TRULY SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD WE GET GOOD FOREIGN POLICY; AND, YOU KNOW, I'VE SAID FOR SOME TIME

IF THERE HAD BEEN 5 MILLION VIETNAMESE CITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES PRIOR TO 1945, WE NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD A WAR IN VIETNAM. WE WOULD HAVE BEEN SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEMS OF THAT AREA. I DID ALSO COMPLAIN THAT WE HAVE MANY CITIZENS OF BARBADOS DESCENT THAT DON'T TAKE AN ACTIVE ENOUGH ROLE IN U.S. AFFAIRS AT HOME. I WISH THEY VOTED MORE. AND IF THEY MADE MORE OF A FUSS, OUR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MORE SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE CARIBBEAN.

Q: FOLLOWING THIS TOUR, HOW SUBSTANTIAL IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CARIBBEAN OVER AND ABOVE WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BEFORE YOUR TOUR BEGAN? AND WHAT IN MATERIAL TERMS CAN THE CARIBBEAN LOOK FORWARD TO RESULTING FROM YOUR TOUR?

Y: WELL, I LIKE TO THINK I KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN BEFORE THIS TOUR. I SPENT A MONTH DOWN HERE ABOUT SEVEN, EIGHT YEARS AGO AND I THINK I COUNTED THIS MAYBE AS ABOUT MY -- OH, IF YOU COUNT UP ALL OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES I'VE VISITED, I'VE MADE UPWARDS OF TWENTY VISITS, MOST OF THEM MUCH LONGER THAN THIS. AND YET I THINK WE DID LEARN A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE PRESENT-DAY CARIBBEAN AND I THINK THAT WE'VE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE CARIBBEAN ARE NOT ANSWERS THAT CAN COME DIRECTLY FROM THE UNITED STATES, BUT THAT ESSENTIALLY ALL OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE CONCERNS AND INTERESTS IN THIS REGION MUST SOMEHOW COME TOGETHER AND FIND WAYS TO DEAL WITH THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND OPPORTUNITIES, THAT EXIST HERE. I'D SAY THAT THIS REGION, BECAUSE OF ITS SEA Lanes AND BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF RESOURCES, THE POTENTIAL MARKETS, THE LEVEL OF TALENT AND ABILITY AND TRAINING THAT EXISTS AMONGST THE PEOPLE OF THESE ISLANDS, FAR SURPASSES MOST OF THE OTHER CONTINENTS OF THE WORLD IN TERMS OF EASY ACCESSIBILITY. AND IF WE CAN BEGIN TO OVERCOME SOME OF THE PETTY RIVALRIES, AND IF CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION, ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY, NOT POLITICALLY, CAN BECOME MORE OF A REALITY, WE CAN SEE THIS BECOME ONE OF THE REAL GROWTH AREAS IN TODAY'S WORLD. HOW WE PUT THAT INTO PRACTICE WILL DEPEND ON HOW WELL WE CAN SELL OUR CONCLUSIONS TO OUR GOVERNMENT WHEN WE RETURN HOME.

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 2 SERVICED; TO FOLLOW.

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Q: TRADE UNIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN HAVE RECENTLY COME INTO A
CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ADVERSE CRITICISM. FOR EXAMPLE, THE
PRESIDENT OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, WILLIAM DEMAS, HAS
DESCRIBED TRADE UNIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN AS DYSFUNCTIONAL. "BY
PRESSING FOR HIGHER WAGES AND IMPROVED CONDITIONS, THEY (THAT IS,
TRADE UNIONS) TEND TO MOVE EQUALITY BETWEEN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES
OF WORKERS AND FARMERS AND REDUCE THE CHANCES OF THE YOUNG UNEM-
PLOYED BEING ABSORBED INTO THE LABOR FORCE." AND OUR FORMER
PRIME MINISTER, MR. ERROL BARROW, DESCRIBED TRADE UNIONS AS
BEING RESTRICTIVE. IN ADDITION TO THAT, THE MINISTER OF
FINANCE - JAMAICA, DAVID COLE, DESCRIBED TRADE UNIONS THIS WAY:
"OUR TRADE UNIONS TAKE THE PATTERN OF EXPECTATION NOT FROM A
REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THE LOCAL ECONOMY CAN PRODUCE, BUT
FROM WHAT THEY SEE HAPPENING IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES. WHEN THE
DAY COMES THAT OUR ACTIVITY IS STILL LOW, AND THE CHEAP LABOR IS
GONE, AND SO IS THE INCENTIVE FOR THE INVESTMENT TO COME IN."
COULD WE HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS IN THE
CARIBBEAN?

Y: NO, YOU MAY NOT. (LAUGHTER.) THAT WOULD BE INTERFERING IN
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THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOME VERY SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENTS. I
THINK I'LL STAY OUT OF THAT FIGHT IF YOU DON'T MIND.

Q: MR. JIMMY CARTER HAS CUT AID TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHERE

HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED. WILL THE UNITED STATES MAKE AID TO OUR COUNTRIES IN THIS AREA DEPENDENT ON FREE ELECTIONS, AND THE MAINTENANCE OF A FREE PRESS?

Y: I THINK THAT WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO AS A RESULT OF THIS TRIP IS TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE COMPONENT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS EMPHASIS OF PRESIDENT CARTER. THE WAY WE SEE IT IS THAT WE THINK THAT IT'S VERY MUCH IN THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE OUR AID GO TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE DEMOCRACIES. IN ADDITION TO THE APPROACHES THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN SO FAR THAT HAVE ESSENTIALLY DENIED MILITARY AID, WE'VE NOT CUT OFF AID TO THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. WHEN WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DOCUMENT THE FACT THAT ASSISTANCE IS GOING TO THE POOREST OF THE POOR IN A COUNTRY, EVEN WHEN THAT'S A COUNTRY THAT WE MIGHT NOT AGREE WITH AND WHOSE GOVERNMENT WE DON'T LIKE PARTICULARLY -- LET'S SAY THEY'RE A LITTLE MORE TOTALITARIAN THAN WE'RE ACCUSTOMED OR WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE -- WE'VE STILL TRIED TO FIND WAYS TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF THOSE COUNTRIES. I THINK ALSO, THOUGH, IT'LL BE OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT WE AS THE UNITED STATES TRY TO STRENGTHEN THE DEMOCRACIES, THOSE COUNTRIES THAT DO HAVE A FREE PRESS AND FREE ELECTIONS AND, I MIGHT SAY, FREE TRADE UNIONS. THAT THOSE ARE INSTITUTIONS THAT I THINK HAVE BEEN VERY VALUABLE IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES, AND IT'S HARD TO LIVE WITH THEM, THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT. NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLES OF A FREE PRESS LIKE I DO. AND YET WE THINK OF THAT AS ONE OF THE HIGH MARKS OF OUR DEMOCRATIC TRADITION.

Q: MR. AMBASSADOR, WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TO THE SPREAD OF SOCIALISM IN THE CARIBBEAN? AND IN RELATION TO AN INTEGRATED UNCLASSIFIED

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CARIBBEAN, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF CUBA?

Y: WELL, ANYTHING THAT'S GOING TO FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE, PROVIDE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS, STABILIZE POPULATION GROWTH, WHATEVER YOU HAPPEN TO CALL IT, IF IT'S GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE THERE, I THINK THIS ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO LIVE WITH IT. AND, YOU KNOW, BY WHATEVER NAME IT'S CALLED I DON'T KNOW WHAT SOCIALISM IS ANYMORE. AND ON THE QUESTION OF CUBA, I THINK THAT'S ONE OF THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE NEGOTIATED BILATERALLY IN TERMS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. THAT PROCESS IS GOING ON VERY SLOWLY AND I THINK THERE SEEMS TO BE AN INDICATION THAT WE'RE MOVING VERY MUCH IN THAT DIRECTION. HOWEVER, WHATEVER ROLE CUBA WOULD HAVE IN THE CARIBBEAN WOULD NOT JUST BE DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES, BUT ANYTHING THAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT IN THIS REGION WE'VE TALKED ABOUT IN TERMS OF BEING ONE PARTNER IN A COALITION OR A REGIONAL SCHEME OF DEVELOPMENT AND I WOULD THINK THAT THAT WOULD BE A DECISION THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH ALL OF THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE INVOLVED.

Q: MR. AMBASSADOR, WHAT IN YOUR VIEW HAS BEEN THE GREATEST DEFECT OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN OVER THE YEARS?

Y: THE GREATEST DEFECT IS THAT FOR ALMOST A FIFTEEN-YEAR PERIOD WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY POLICY. WE LOOKED AT VIETNAM AS OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOR, AND WE IGNORED EVERYTHING INBETWEEN HERE AND THERE, INCLUDING EUROPE. I THINK THIS ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO REMEDY THAT AND WE SEE OUR NEAREST NEIGHBORS AS POTENTIALLY OUR MOST VALUABLE ALLIES.

Q: YOU SPOKE OF A POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP ACTION OF HAVING TO SELL SOME OF YOUR CONCLUSIONS TO CONGRESS WHICH I EXPECT WILL BE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. ISN'T THERE A DANGER THAT IF THEY'RE NOT BOUGHT THERE WILL BE A TURNING AWAY FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR CREDIBILITY, ITS CREDIBILITY?

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Y: MOST OF THE THINGS THAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT COULD FIT VERY WELL WITHIN EXISTING CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS. WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT NEW THINGS. YOU'LL REMEMBER THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WENT TO CONGRESS WITH THE LARGEST FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, SOME \$7 BILLION FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. ONE OF THE THINGS I THINK WE IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE GOT TO SEE IS THAT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THIS REGION AND TO OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD IS VERY MUCH TO OUR ADVANTAGE. I MEAN IT DIDN'T HURT US A BIT THAT WE CONTRIBUTED SOME \$18 BILLION, I THINK IT WAS, TO GERMANY AND JAPAN AFTER THE WAR. I THINK THAT THEY HAVE BEEN OUR BIGGEST AND BEST TRADING PARTNERS AND OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS BEEN IN A SENSE BECAUSE OF THEIR ECONOMIC GROWTH; AND THAT THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE FUTURE IS GOING TO HAVE TO INVOLVE WHAT WE CALL LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND I THINK THE ECONOMIC STABILITY OF THE WHOLE WORLD DEPENDS ON A CERTAIN LEVEL OF CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH, EXPANSION OF GOODS AND SERVICES AND RESOURCES TO PEOPLE WHO DO NOT NOW HAVE ACCESS TO THEM.
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